



Bus changes get rolling

TTC adds 93 vehicles in rush hour, establishes half-hour frequency limit

TTC riders can expect a little more elbow room on the bus today as the single biggest service boost in recent history takes effect.

The improvements that officially kicked in yesterday come at a time of record ridership, and will affect virtually all of the city's 168 bus routes.

Their operation will now roughly coincide with subway hours, from about 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week.

Ninety-three buses will

be added to rush-hour service and those routes that have only run during peak hours or at midday will now run all day, with a few exceptions.

Every route will operate on a maximum 30-minute headway — meaning riders should never wait more than half an hour for the next bus.

"It will have a huge impact for people across the city," said TTC chair Adam Giambrone. "What people will feel most is on the rush hour

with 93 buses — that will reduce overcrowding."

This is the second major service expansion the TTC has announced this year. In February, it added service to 77 bus and streetcar routes across the city, 43 of which had been designated as under-served.

The overall improvements will cost \$21 million this

year and \$56 million in future years.

They coincide with the opening of the TTC's new Mount Dennis bus garage, a new \$92-million facility that had been standing vacant for nearly a year.

Its opening was delayed as a result of financial pressures on the city, which forced the TTC to postpone service improvements, and a delay in the delivery of new buses.

For details on service improvements on spe-

'80s comeback

- Today's increase brings Toronto transit back to the levels of the 1980s, and is the largest single boost to service since 1974.
- The TTC has delivered 465 million rides this year, a slight increase over the 1988 record of 463.5 million rides.

cific routes go to www3.ttc.ca/Service_Advisories/Service_Changes.jsp. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Grey Cup **Stampeders**



Calgary Stampeders quarterback and Grey Cup game MVP Henry Burris holds the Grey Cup after defeating the Montreal Alouettes last night before a crowd of 66,308 at Olympic Stadium. The Stampeders won 22-14. **Story, page 14.**

victorious

\$6 billion needed to fight child poverty: Advocates

ONTARIO Ontario will have to spend at least \$6 billion over five years to make a dent in the province's "stubbornly high" child poverty rate of almost 12 per cent, advocates say.

It's comparable to what Quebec has spent since 2003 to cut child poverty in half in the past decade, said Jacquie Maund, Ontario co-ordinator of Campaign 2000, a coalition of groups working to end child poverty in Canada.

Friday was the 19th anniversary of Ottawa's pledge to end child poverty by 2000. But Ontario's child poverty rate of 11.8 per cent in 2006 has barely budged since that federal promise was made.

The coalition's 2008 report card says the money is needed to invest in good jobs; higher social assistance rates; low-cost child care; affordable housing; and access to post-secondary education and training. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Fewer Canadians filling out census forms, study finds

TURNOUT Voter turnout isn't the only civic responsibility in decline across Canada — a new study says fewer people are fill-

ing out their census forms, even though it's the law. And as in elections, those not being counted by the census include the young

and marginalized.

More than 4 per cent of the population was missed in the last census in 2006, the biggest gap since at

least 1991. About 1.4 million people are estimated to be missing, out of a total population of 32.6 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going Green pg 16

Green-eating economies



Entertainment pg 23

All the buzz at the AMAs

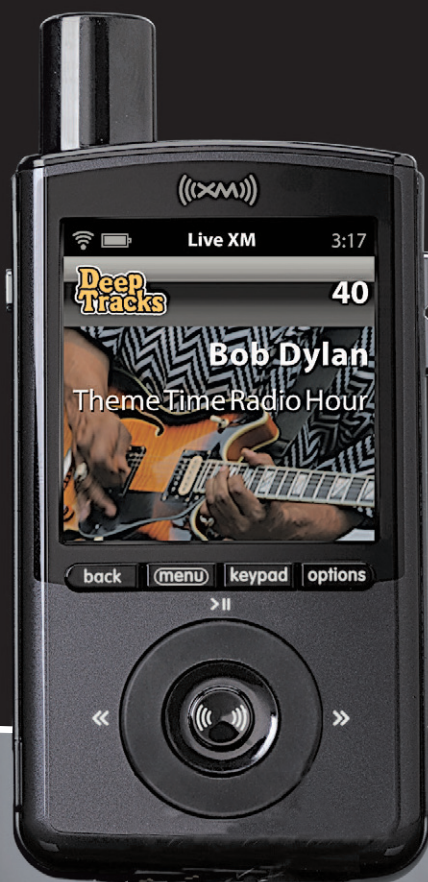


Workology pg 20

Rare career for tree-lovers

INTRODUCING THE REVOLUTIONARY

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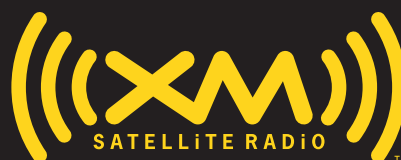
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Male shot near Jane and Steeles

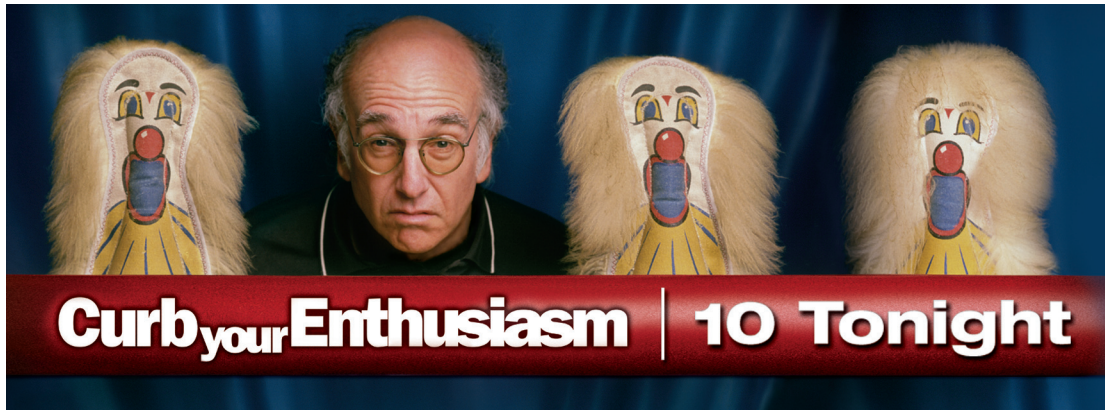
An 18-year-old may lose an eye after being shot in the temple yesterday afternoon near Jane Street and Steeles Avenue West. Police were called to the area at 4:30 p.m. The victim was taken to Sunnybrook hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, but doctors have yet to determine if he will lose an eye. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

3

Local

**Some York students back to class**

More than 200 students are headed back to class at York University today, but nearly 50,000 others will continue cooling their heels as a campus-wide strike heads into its 19th day with no sign of a settlement. Students now are pinning their hopes on efforts by Local 3903 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees — which represents York's 3,340 teaching assistants, graduate assistants and contract faculty — to get the talks going again. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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metronews.ca
 What's online today.

Read Guidy Mamman's immigration column at metronews.ca/liv
Watch a meteor streak across the Alberta sky at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Friday, Nov. 21
 Lotto Super 7: 1, 15, 27, 38, 40, 43 & 44 Bonus 3
Saturday, Nov. 22
 Lotto 6/49: 9, 21, 28, 37, 44 & 49 Bonus 19
Sunday, Nov. 23
 Ontario Pick 3: 8 3 0; Ontario Pick 4: 9 9 0 3
 Encore: 7623883;
 Daily Keno: 1, 2, 3, 11, 16, 18, 28, 30, 37, 39, 44, 49, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 68, 69, 70.
 These results are not official.

'Suspicious' death probed

Man found in Etobicoke home

According to neighbours, Max Fischer was a gentle man who quietly raised five children with his wife Carmen in a modest home they shared for more than four decades.

So they were shocked to see his body taken from the 1½-storey home on Rathburn Road in Etobicoke yesterday and a relative taken into custody for questioning in his death.

Although homicide detectives are probing the case, they're remaining tight-lipped about what happened. So far, they're just calling it a "suspicious" death.

One officer said there was trauma to Fischer's

body, but did not reveal what type of injuries were found.

Police were called to the home, west of Highway 427, about 10:30 a.m. to investigate a medical complaint. They found the body of Fischer, believed to be 85. His wife Carmen, 79, was led away to stay with relatives.

"They're a nice couple, very well loved," said neighbour Donna Battersby. She said Max Fischer was "a quiet man" who worked in the lumber business before he retired 20 years ago.

"He was a real pussycat," she said. "He was a really kind man."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops tight-lipped

- The couple has five grown children, but police wouldn't say whether an older, unmarried son was taken into custody. No charges have been laid.



Michelle Delisle stands where a guard once watched over an original Jackson Pollock painting in the Gallery Delisle.

Painting put into hiding

The sound of voices and the tripping of an alarm at a small art gallery in the Beach has heightened the mystery and curiosity surrounding a work that famous American painter Jackson Pollock may have created.

The recent overnight incident and concerns of a possible robbery attempt prompted Michelle Delisle, owner of Gallery Delisle, to pull the valuable work and move it to a private company that transfers and secures art pieces.

The U.S. art industry refuses to authenticate the painting after a retired truck driver bought it for \$5 at a thrift store 16 years ago in San Bernardino, Cal.

The rejection comes despite a report by an international art expert from Montreal who used forensic science in fingerprint identification and paint analysis to conclude that it is an original Pollock work. That means it is worth millions of dollars, Delisle said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit City marks new era in T.O.

When the shovels go in the ground on the first of the city's proposed Transit City lines next September, it will mark the beginning of a new era in Toronto transit.

Sheppard East will be the first of the seven proposed light-rail lines to use super-sized streetcars to bring downtown-style transit to the suburbs.

The ride offered by the sleek Euro-style light-rail vehicles will be a far cry from the old streetcars on Queen and King streets.

They will be fast, for one thing. Simulations show the cars would move at 23 kilometres per hour.

Up to 3,000 riders per hour are expected to use the Sheppard line.

For a subway line to be viable, the TTC figures it needs 10,000 riders per hour, minimum. By 2021, Sheppard East is projected to carry 20 million people annually.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THIS HOLIDAY, EVEN TRAVEL MUGS ARE GOING GREEN.

No matter how the people on your list get where they're going, the recycled tumbler will make the trip a little more earth-friendly. Each is made from 22–28% post-consumer recycled material. And each is good for a 10¢ discount on any and every Starbucks drink you fill it with. Who knew a mug could make the earth and your wallet a little greener?

The Cheer is Here.



A Beck taxi driver was assaulted and robbed in the city's northeast end early Saturday. The 30-year-old victim picked up the suspect on Tidefall Drive, near Victoria Park and Sheppard Avenue East, just after 3 a.m., police said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Kindred Café owner to surrender today: Lawyer

Dominic Cramer, owner of the coffee shop raided by police last week on suspicion of marijuana trafficking, will turn himself in at 52 Division this evening, says his lawyer, Alan Young.

Cramer is expected to attend a bail hearing at Old City Hall tomorrow.

The Kindred Café, frequented by medical marijuana users and other pot-smoking customers, has never been raided before and Cramer has no criminal record.

Today at 8 a.m., an hour-

Neighbourhood

- The Kindred Café occupies a neighbourhood known as Yongestendam (in reference to Amsterdam, where marijuana use is legal) for its cluster of businesses catering to cannabis users.

long rally in front of Old City Hall at Bay and Queen streets was expected to draw a good-sized crowd in support of Cramer and the rights of medically exempt cannabis users.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man killed wife, children

Autopsy confirms tragedy was a triple murder-suicide

Autopsies this weekend confirmed that the patriarch of a Scarborough family stabbed his wife and two adult children to death before fatally shooting himself in the head.

Police confirmed yesterday that the tragedy, which unfolded last week in a bungalow on Welwyn Avenue, near Ellesmere and Markham roads, was a triple murder-suicide.

The three victims died from stab wounds to the torso, according to autopsies over the weekend.

Financial pressure?

- There is speculation that Keith and Wanda were under financial pressure. Neither had been working full time for a decade and they remortgaged their home in September for \$240,000.

sies over the weekend.

Police have also confirmed the identities of the murder victims as Wanda DeLong, 64, Richard DeLong, 38, and Elizabeth Tompkins, 44.

Keith DeLong, 66, committed suicide, police said.

A poodle named Charlotte was also found dead

at the scene. And a hastily hand written note tacked to the front door read "Do not enter, Call Police."

Initially, police took Tompkins' husband James, who called 9-1-1, into custody, but he was released 15 hours later without any charges laid against him.

Friends and neighbours

are stunned by Keith DeLong's actions, insisting he must have "snapped," as one neighbour said, in order "to do this to his family."

Neighbours on Welwyn Avenue said Elizabeth had arrived at her parents' home last Tuesday to help them get ready for a last-minute trip to New Mexico, where her 92-year-old grandmother is dying. The parents had planned to be gone for a week or two.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

Fifty matches made over 'Weekend of Twinning'

Despite their cultural, religious and political differences, members of Toronto's Temple Emanu-El, a Jewish synagogue, and Noor Cultural Centre, a Muslim group, will be twinned like brothers and sisters.

The two communities are among 50 matches made since Friday over the "Weekend of Twinning" between synagogues and

mosques across North America, including four paired up in Greater Toronto, in an effort to expand on interfaith dialogue.

Emanu-El's members joined their Muslim counterparts for a Jumaa (Friday) prayer at Noor, while the Jewish group hosted a Shabbat dinner for guests of Islamic faith.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DRUG SMUGGLING CAN BE MURDER.



THE BORDER

The death of a Canadian war hero reveals a deadly conspiracy. With special guest star *Megan Follows*.

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Photo: University of Toronto, Varsity Centre

Canada



Dumont attacks

Action Démocratique du Québec leader Mario Dumont yesterday charged his main rivals with decadence during an economic downturn, calling them a “royal couple” who swan around in “golden carriages.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, wearing a traditional Peruvian poncho, walks with other leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit yesterday in Lima, Peru.

Harper sounds recession warning

Canada faces the prospect of falling into a “technical recession” and Ottawa might have to take unprecedented actions to stimulate the faltering economy, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

“The most recent private sector forecasts suggest the strong possibility of a technical recession the end of this year, the beginning of next,” Harper told a news conference at the conclusion of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Peru.

“Yes, I am surprised at this. I’m also further surprised, more importantly,

Definition

- Economists define recession as two consecutive quarters in which the economy shrinks instead of grows.
- Under this definition, an economy could be technically in recession even though the shrinkage is relatively mild.

by deflationary pressure that we’re seeing around the world. This is a worrying development, one of the reasons why it may well be necessary to take unprecedented fiscal stimulus.”

Harper wouldn’t elaborate on what measures the Conservative government might take to stimulate the economy. But he said he would have to be convinced that any infusion of government money into Canada’s economy would be effective, and that the action wouldn’t result in a prolonged deficit.

Harper was replying to a question about comments made earlier yesterday by his finance minister, Jim Flaherty, who told CTV’s Question Period the Canadian economy could be on the verge of a “technical recession.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recanted confession case resumes today

Confessing to a murder he says he didn’t commit was perhaps the strangest moment in Romeo Phillion’s very weird life — one that even he’s hard-pressed to explain.

“I wasn’t too bright back then,” said Phillion, 69, whose case resumes today at the Ontario Court of Appeal. “Cost me my whole life.”

Thirty-six years later, whether Phillion — who quickly recanted his confession — was telling the truth about the 1967 murder of Ottawa firefighter Leopold Roy is still hotly contested.

But with hundreds of documented cases worldwide, false confessions happen. And a key question before the court is whether juries should be allowed to hear testimony from experts who purport to understand why.

The result could determine not only whether Phillion spends the rest of his life a free man or returns to prison, but the course of other “confession” cases across the

“Saying someone falsely confessed feels very much at odds with common sense.”

Lawyer Philip Campbell

country.

He’s already served 31 years behind bars.

In pushing for a change in legal policy, Phillion’s lawyers argue that courtroom help from an expert is necessary in cases of disputed confessions because jurors are routinely told by judges to use “common sense” in reaching a verdict.

“Saying someone falsely confessed feels very much at odds with common sense,” lawyer Philip Campbell argued in submissions before the court last week.

But Phillion’s lawyers are making their pitch at a time when courts have been urged to tread carefully when it comes to experts.

In his recent report from an inquiry into Ontario’s

pediatric forensic pathology system, prompted by the mistakes of Dr. Charles Smith, Justice Stephen Goudge recommended judges be vigilant in their role as “gatekeepers,” screening out unreliable testimony from scientific specialists.

In their quest to have their client acquitted of Roy’s murder, Phillion’s legal team wants the court to admit evidence from a British psychologist, Gisli Gudjonsson, who concluded Phillion’s 1972 confession is likely false.

Gudjonsson believes it was the product of an emotionally immature man who craved attention, and perhaps wanted to impress his drag queen lover.

At one point, Phillion even pinned Roy’s murder on his identical twin brother, Donald, who had convictions for a 1967 double murder outside Carp, near Ottawa.

Lawyers for Ontario’s attorney general dismiss Gudjonsson’s opinion as “junk science.”

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

B.C. scientists make cancer breakthrough

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



The findings were published this week in the medical journal Nature Medicine.

The researchers say the advancements will allow scientists to better study breast stem cells, likely the culprits behind breast cancers.

“The leap we made ... is

we’ve devised a way to detect and see those stem cells in breasts,” said Peter Eirew, lead author of the study.

“Up until now we haven’t been able to set them apart from the other cells.”

In the study, the team transplanted breast stem

cells into special mice that don’t have immune systems. “There is tremendous potential for this knowledge to accelerate the identification of better treatments for breast cancer, particularly,” added Connie Eaves, Director of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory.

News in brief

EDUCATION Ontario’s public school teachers now have less than one week to sign collective agreements with their boards or lose a 12 per cent pay raise offer over the next four years.

POLITICS Opposition parties will be scouring the Harper government’s supplementary spending estimates, released today, for evidence that the

government is using the melt-down to justify government reductions.

SECURITY The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is pushing ahead with plans to collect personal information about air passengers on flights passing through American airspace, even if the plane never touches down on U.S. soil.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Vatican media are praising the Beatles' musical legacy and writing off John Lennon's boast that the British band was more popular than Jesus as the bragging of a young man wrestling with unexpected success. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Bangkok braces for protest

Police prepared barricades and schools cancelled classes as Bangkok braced for an anti-government protest today that demonstrators said would be their final showdown in a struggle that has turned increasingly violent. The demonstrators, who call themselves the People's Alliance for Democracy, say they want to block parliament from considering a bill to rewrite the constitution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motorcade carrying Polish, Georgian presidents fired on

GEORGIA Shots were fired yesterday at a motorcade carrying the presidents of Georgia and Poland, but no one was hurt, officials said. Georgian officials said the gunfire came from the breakaway Georgian province of South Ossetia. But a South Ossetian spokeswoman and Russian soldiers denied that shots were fired in the area, Rus-

sia's RIA Novosti news agency reported. The Russian troops based in South Ossetia denied involvement in a statement carried by the Russia's Interfax news agency.

Tension in the area remains high following Georgia's war with Russia over South Ossetia in August.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dalai Lama urges prudence on Tibet independence push

AUTONOMY The Dalai Lama warned yesterday that the dream of a free Tibet would be in danger if exiled leaders weren't careful, one day after they said they might push for independence if China refuses to grant independence

soon to the region.

This comes after the Dalai Lama called a week-long gathering of Tibetan exiles from around the world to discuss the future of their movement. The meeting ended Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

IRAQ Baghdad authorities killed more than 200 stray dogs yesterday, the opening day of a campaign to cull dog

packs roaming the capital that was prompted by a spate of fatal attacks on residents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama team tackles economy

Aides urge passing of legislation that will save, create jobs

After more than two weeks of virtual silence on the economy, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's transition team burst on the scene with new ambition and urgency yesterday, demanding swift passage by Congress of a massive two-year spending and tax-cutting recovery program.

Obama aides called on legislators to pass, by the Jan. 20 inauguration, legislation that meets Obama's two-year goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs. Democratic congressional leaders said they would get to work when Congress convenes Jan. 6.

Though Obama aides declined to discuss a total cost, it probably would far exceed the \$175 billion US he proposed during the campaign, but would not immediately seek to raise taxes on the rich. Some economists and legislators have argued for a two-year plan as large as \$700 bil-



U.S. president-elect Barack Obama arrives at the University of Chicago Lab School to play basketball yesterday.

lion, equal to the Wall Street bailout Congress approved last month.

With the wounded econ-

omy worsening, the Obama team's new assertiveness was a recognition he needed to soothe financial

"We don't have time to waste here. We want to hit the ground running on Jan. 20."

David Axelrod

markets with signs of leadership. It also foreshadowed a more hands-on role by Obama to influence congressional action during the final weeks of the transition.

Obama planned to introduce his economic team today, including Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary and Lawrence Summers as head of the National Economic Council. Obama also has settled on New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary.

"We don't have time to waste here," Obama senior adviser David Axelrod said. "We want to hit the ground running on Jan. 20."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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10 world

Australians try to save 11 stranded whales
Rescuers moved 11 pilot whales to a beach in the hope they would return to sea after they were found in Tasmania Saturday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Fatal shooting in mall

A young gunman remains at large following a shooting at a busy shopping mall in suburban Seattle that killed one teenager and seriously wounded another.

Police say at least four or five people were detained and questioned after the shooting Saturday afternoon at Southcenter Mall.

Police officer Mike Murphy says the shooting stemmed from a fight between two groups of people and may have been

Shooter's escape

- SWAT teams converged on the mall, which was locked down for six hours. Store employees and customers were allowed to exit in groups, and police said the shooter must have left with the crowd.

gang-related.

He says police expected to identify the gunman and make an arrest soon.

Authorities say the as-

sailant and the two victims were all in their late teens or early 20s.

The Southcenter Mall in Tukwila was jammed with shoppers when the gunman fired multiple shots after apparently getting into an altercation with the two victims, police said.

One victim died at a hospital. A spokeswoman at Harborview Medical Center said the wounded man's injuries were non-life-threatening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

40,000 pick up free leftover vegetables from farm couple

COLORADO A farm couple got a huge surprise when they opened their fields to anyone who wanted to pick up free vegetables left over after the harvest.

Forty thousand people showed up.

Joe and Chris Miller's fields were picked so clean Saturday that a second day of gleaning — the ancient practice of picking up leftover food in farm fields — was cancelled yesterday.

"Overwhelmed is put-

"Overwhelmed is putting it mildly."

Chris Miller

ting it mildly," Chris Miller said. She said she only expected 5,000 to 10,000 people would show up Saturday to collect free potatoes, carrots and leeks.

An estimated 272,000 kilograms of produce was harvested Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medical aid resumes in Congo

AFRICA An aid group yesterday sent the first medical supplies to a ravaged eastern Congo since fighting ended there, as officials in the provincial capital of Goma clamped down on the illegal sale of food aid in the city's bustling markets.

A rebellion that began in August has uprooted some 250,000 people, who have taken shelter in camps or anywhere they can get away from the violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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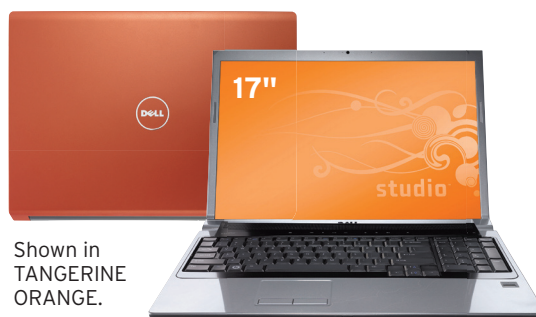
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Comment & Views

Comment

Savvy shopping tips

Some simple rules can make the holidays less daunting

HineSight

Anne Hines



Thirty-one days until Christmas. Once again I find myself asking, "If the holidays are about home and family, why am I always alone in a mall?"

I could buy gifts online. But I always feel this should be dubbed: "Internet shopping. When you care enough to send the best. But not to actually go out and get it yourself."

To make your gift buying easier, here is The HineSight Guide to Savvy Seasonal Shopping.

1. Before scouring the stores for that one perfect

unforgettable present, follow three steps. Pause. Think of all the unforgettable gifts you've given or received in previous years. If you can't remember more than two, just buy everyone socks.

2. Forget gift cards. My daughter, Jade, says, "Gift cards; they're like cash. Only worse." I still have cards from places like Heidi's House of Hostas and Sausage World. And convenience-wise, you may still have to go from store to store to get them. Even cash has to be procured and shoved in an envelope. If we really wanted convenience, there's an obvious solution. Direct deposit from

your account to your loved ones'.

3. Convert to Buddhism. Really. Right now. Buddhists are joyous, peaceful people so you know they don't have to go into a single mall in December. Any religion that doesn't require gifts

this time of year will do. Saying, "I'm sorry. I'm a disciple of the Goddess Habukku" should get you out of that Secret Santa draw no problem.

4. Make shopping an extreme sport. My brother, Bruce, believes there is no life event so onerous that it can't be turned into a competition. Bruce would start his Christmas shopping at 4

p.m. on Dec. 24. If the gift he gave you came in a Shoppers Drug Mart bag, you knew he didn't make it to your present before the mall closed at six.

5. Never give someone a poinsettia. Poinsettias should be genetically engineered to die on Dec. 31. They're the Survivor contestants of the plant world. I can starve them, ignore them, stick them in the basement and they still hang on for months, proclaiming, "Isn't this fun? I'm all about Christmas." By April I'm tossing them into the compost bin and I feel like I've killed Santa Claus.

These few simple rules can make the holidays less daunting. And we need that. Because it's only 395 days until next Christmas.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



Letters

Margaret Wood, EDMONTON

Re: Long, dark winter without Mad Men (Oct. 28)

Rick McGinnis' words touched my heart and stirred a familiar haunted feeling. Mad Men depicts times that are very real to me — unwanted pregnancy, secrets and shame and then giving life to a beautiful baby destined for adoption.

Searching for my son was a compelling and healing process.

Sadly, my accomplished, clever and handsome son does not welcome an on-going relationship. I honour his choice.

At the same time, I long for a relationship while holding him lovingly and tenderly in my heart. His very being continues to shape and define my life.

Zoran Vukasovic, TORONTO

I want to commend Metro on the choice of articles and writers the paper has added to the publication.

As a daily commuter, the news mixed in with inspirational stories of ordinary people (like those on the train with me each

day), serves as a great read. It helps connect us to each other, with common perspectives, a view of struggles and small wins experienced daily with families in our communities.

Vincent Lizee, VANCOUVER

Now that women ski jumpers have a court date, maybe they can think about who is going to pay for their event's inclusion. Uh-hum, taxpayers.

If their thinking gets advanced enough, they will learn some taxpayers would rather not have their event funded, not because they dislike female ski jumpers, but from their belief that Vancouver's hosting of the 2010 Olympics is a colossal waste of their money.

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Views

Metrolinx reaching moment of truth

InTransit

Ed Drass



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Quick tip

• My tip this week is for Metrolinx officials: You need to address the well-researched criticism of the RTP by advocate Steve Munro. Until Metrolinx responds publicly to

the respected transit guru's concerns, some of us will harbour serious reservations about whether the Big Move aims to build the right projects in the right order.

neglect that the plan has yet to settle on specific projects or research crucial issues like how goods can be transported without slowing down commuters.

That said, the RTP is the most complete game plan ever devised for this fast-growing region. Planners are considering issues that were previously dealt with separately — if they were thought of at all. The Big Move acknowledges not only the need for much better transit but also good cycling and walking routes, plus the need for smart city

and most overcrowded transport routes.

Those who are touting projects that cannot demonstrate a real impact ought to heed Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and her repeated call to focus on "need and priority." This means spending scarce dollars on justified transit upgrades.

Provincial and Metrolinx officials say the Big Move is a living document, that it's not written in stone. Indeed, a lot of it has not even been written. Such is the rush to address decades of

As millions of GTA residents move about by train, bus and automobile this week, they're probably not going to be worrying much about a document called the Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP. But on Friday, this grand transportation vision, also known as the Big Move, goes to the provincial planning agency Metrolinx for approval.

The vote is only significant if Metrolinx and all levels of government dedicate enough funds and actually relieve Greater Toronto's worst bottlenecks

building such as promoting condos and shops near transit hubs, as well as a focus on good customer service for transit riders.

The next step is to fill in the plan's holes. One key question involves access to Pearson Airport. Metrolinx must ensure that people in Weston, Brampton and other points along the soon-to-be upgraded Georgetown rail line can get to the airport easily and at a reasonable cost. The Big Move is too vague on this.

The other crucial component: Money. It's not clear whether the initial budget of \$11 billion is enough to make a real difference to commuters, nor if the province can send sufficient funds in the current economic climate.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

U.S. government working on Citigroup rescue plan

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve were weighing a plan yesterday to rescue Citigroup Inc., whose stock has been hammered on worries about its financial health. The company has seen its shares lose 60 per cent of their value in the last week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Business



Slinky toy founder dies

Betty James, who co-founded the company that made the Slinky, has died. She was 90. In 1945, James and her husband founded the company that would later make the toy for which she was inducted into the Toy Industry Hall of Fame in 2001. Richard James died in 1974.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

News in brief



STORM A customer tries the BlackBerry Storm in a California store after it went on sale in the U.S. Friday. There were reports of long line-ups for the new smartphone.

ALBERTA The effects of plunging oil prices on Alberta's once-red hot economy will stretch well beyond the province's boundaries, touching everything from Ontario steel pipe producers to federal government coffers as many oilsands producers in Alberta scale back or delay their multibillion-dollar projects. Economic growth in Alberta is expected to ebb to levels not seen in more than two decades.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bell cutting 250 jobs

Bell Canada is cutting 250 clerical jobs across Canada, notably in Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, the telecommunications giant said Friday.

The company was hopeful that some of those employees will be relocated to other jobs within the company, but that number will depend on how many employees agree to voluntarily leave.

The entire process should be completed by Feb. 10, said Bell

"We will work with a certain number of employees to help them find a new job at Bell."

Jacques Bouchard

spokesman Jacques Bouchard.

"We will work with a certain number of employees to help them find a new job at Bell," Bouchard said, adding the exact number was unknown.

Meanwhile, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada said in a news release that the cuts are the result of outsourcing.

Bouchard denied that any of the jobs are being outsourced.

The union said it is outraged by the cuts, considering employees have "already made significant concessions to allow the company to compete more efficiently."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumers to feel squeeze as banks unveil results

Canadian banks are set to unveil some of the worst quarterly results in recent memory thanks to losses suffered as a result of the global financial crisis.

For Canadians, 95 per cent of whom do business with the so-called Big Six banks, the millions of dollars in losses will make it even tougher and more expensive to borrow money.

Bank of Montreal is the

first bank to report tomorrow, followed by Bank of Nova Scotia on Dec. 2, TD Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and National Bank on Dec. 4 and Royal Bank on Dec. 5.

Banks have already tightened credit card conditions, hiked rates for missed payments and dropped the discounts once offered on mortgages.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Free trade pact with Colombia

A Canada-Colombia free-trade agreement was announced Friday shortly after Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrived in Peru for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit.

Under provisions in the federal Accountability Act, the deal must now be debated by Parliament before

it becomes legislation — likely by January 2010.

A senior Canadian government official said preliminary discussions with Colombia began in 2002 and blossomed into full-fledged talks last year.

The agreement lifts tariffs on 98 per cent of Canada's exports to Colombia,

including wheat, barley, lentils, peas, beef, paper products and machinery and equipment.

In 2007, two-way trade between Canada and Colombia totalled more than \$1.1 billion. Canadian exports to Colombia make up \$630 million of the total.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Sports

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O'Neal's knee a cause for concern

Jermaine O'Neal left the Raptors' 118-103 loss to the Celtics yesterday. The centre had started despite having strained his surgically repaired left knee against New Jersey on Friday. Against the Nets, O'Neal hurt his knee when he was pulled down in the fourth quarter by Sean Williams. There was no structural damage, but O'Neal did not practise Saturday. "It just didn't have any stability, it was becoming a little too painful," said O'Neal yesterday. "The big picture for us is in the long term and we've got two days before the next game."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary puts its Stamp on it

96TH GREY CUP

Stamps 22 Alouettes 14



You've been there before, surely. You wanted a job or a position badly — desperately — but you were not-so-nicely snubbed. And so then you dearly wanted to make the folks who rejected you regret their decision.

Well, Chris Jones was able to turn such a desire into reality in a tangible way last night.

A defensive coach with Montreal the past seven years, Jones was unceremoniously discarded by the Alouettes before this season after he had applied to the club for the then-vacant position of head

coach.

Last night, Jones got sweet revenge — in the form of a Grey Cup championship. Jones is the defensive co-ordinator of the Calgary Stampeders, and it was primarily his unit that was responsible for a 22-14 triumph over those Alouettes in the 96th edition of the CFL's showcase event.

The game wasn't especially entertaining — unless you're turned on by field goals and a dearth of touchdowns — but the Stamps could care less. For them, this fifth championship in their history was bone-chilling.

Calgary

quarterback Henry Burris passed for 328 yards and rushed for 79 and was chosen the game's MVP. Calgary kicker Sandro DeAngelis

was the game's top Canadian after connecting on five of five field-goal attempts, includ-



The Stampeders' Demetris Summers is swarmed on a punt return during Calgary's 22-14 win last night.

ing a 50-yarder late in the game to cement the victory. But it was the Calgary defence that particularly prevailed last night.

Using a brilliant game plan that stymied Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo, the CFL's premier player this season, the Stamps knocked down a staggering four passes, intercepted two and limited

the Als to only one touchdown — and a measly single point in the second half.

"Chris Jones and his staff did an excellent job teaching a lot of young players to play defence," Calgary's rookie head coach, John Hufnagel, told TSN after the game.

"They grew and matured as the season progressed."

Calvillo, who has only one Grey Cup ring despite six appearances in the final in a nine-year span, clearly was flustered by Jones' strategy.

"We made big second half adjustments," Stamps defensive lineman Mike Labinjo told TSN. "And we rattled Calvillo."

The Stamps trailed 13-10 at halftime, but Labinjo insisted they weren't bothered by the partisanship at Montreal's Olympic Stadium, which was occupied by 66,308 spectators — the second-largest crowd in Cup history.

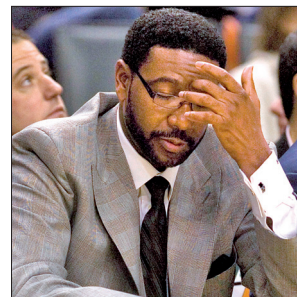
"We faced plenty of adversity all year," Burris said, "and we knew we could come into Montreal and get through this kind of adversity, too."

Burris was able to abort suggestions from skeptics who felt he couldn't win a championship game.

"If you keep knocking on the door," Hufnagel said, "the door will open for you and it opened wide for Henry tonight."

The Stamps in general felt they were treated poorly when they were shut out at the 2008 CFL awards ceremonies last week. Calvillo got the nod over Burris as the CFL's outstanding player while DeAngelis lost out to the Toronto Argonauts' Dominique Dorsey as the league's best special-teams performer.

"They can take awards from us," Calgary receiver Nik Lewis said, "but they can't take the Grey Cup from us now."



Sam Mitchell shows his frustration yesterday.

NBA RESULT

Celtics 118 Raptors 103



THE SKINNY: The Raptors allowed Boston to shoot 62 per cent and were thoroughly hammered by the Celtics yesterday for their second straight loss. Jermaine O'Neal started but only played 14 minutes (see above).

THE FRUSTRATION: Chris Bosh slammed the ball to the floor and glared, separated from his teammates during the third quarter timeout as boos cascaded down from the stands.

THE QUOTE: "Y'all keep using 'frustrated' and everything. It's over, you know what I mean?" said Bosh. "Do we want other teams to shoot like that? No. Do we want to do a better job on defence? Yes. But it happens, you have to learn from your mistakes and move on. We have to come out with a more aggressive mentality on offence and defence and just believe in ourselves and our teammates."

THE NEXT GAME: At home against the 3-9 Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday night.

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Spain wins Davis Cup of tennis

Fernando Verdasco defeated Jose Acasuso 6-3, 6-7 (3), 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 yesterday, giving Spain its third Davis Cup title after upsetting Argentina in the final. The Spaniards overcame the absence of injured No. 1 Rafael Nadal to win the best-of-five final 3-1.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

sports **15**

Bills put up 54 in Kansas City

NFL ROUNDOUP

Bills 54 Chiefs 31

So what happened to those stumblebum Buffalo Bills and their slump-ridden quarterback? The historically awful Kansas City Chiefs, that's what.

Trent Edwards threw for two touchdowns, ran for two and the Bills scored more points yesterday than had ever been scored against

Kansas City, swamping the Chiefs 54-31. The Bills pounced on five Kansas City turnovers and came within four points of matching their 42-year-old record for most points in a game. The previous high against the Chiefs was 51 in an overtime loss at Seattle in 1983.

N.Y. JETS 34, TITANS 13

Brett Favre gave the Tennessee Titans a painful reminder. He will pick apart the best NFL defences when



Trent Edwards flips into the end zone for a touchdown yesterday.

given too much time.

Favre threw two touchdown passes, Leon Washing-

ton ran for two scores and the New York Jets served notice they will be a factor in the AFC by routing the Titans and ending the perfect start by the NFL's last undefeated team.

PATRIOTS 48, DOLPHINS 28

Matt Cassel threw for 415 yards, Randy Moss caught three touchdown passes and the Patriots won a shootout, beating the feisty but out-gunned Miami Dolphins 48-28.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sports in brief

SPEED SKATING Canada's Christine Nesbitt and Kristina Groves won silver and bronze respectively yesterday in the World Cup 1,500-metre final.

CIS The top-ranked Laval Rouge et Or completed the 12th perfect season in Canadian university football with a 44-21 win over Western in the Vanier Cup Saturday in Hamilton.

BOXING Celestino Caballero dealt Canadian Steve Molitor the first defeat of his pro boxing career Friday at Casino Rama in Orillia. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

A behemoth that won't stop growing

The economy is a monster that threatens nature's services that keep the planet habitable

ScienceMatters

David Suzuki & Dr. Faisal Moola



Have you noticed that we describe the market and economy as if they were living entities? The market is showing signs of stress. The economy is healthy. The economy is on life support. Sometimes, we act as if the economy is larger than life. In the past, people trembled in fear of dragons,

demons, gods, and monsters, sacrificing anything — virgins, money, newborn babies — to appease them. We know now that those fears were superstitious imaginings, but we have replaced them with a new behemoth: The economy. Even stranger, economists believe this behemoth can grow forever. Indeed, the measure of how well a government or corporation is doing is its record of economic growth. But our home — the biosphere, or zone of air, water, and land where all life exists — is finite and fixed. It can't grow. And nothing within such a world can grow indefinitely. In focusing on constant growth, we fail to ask the important

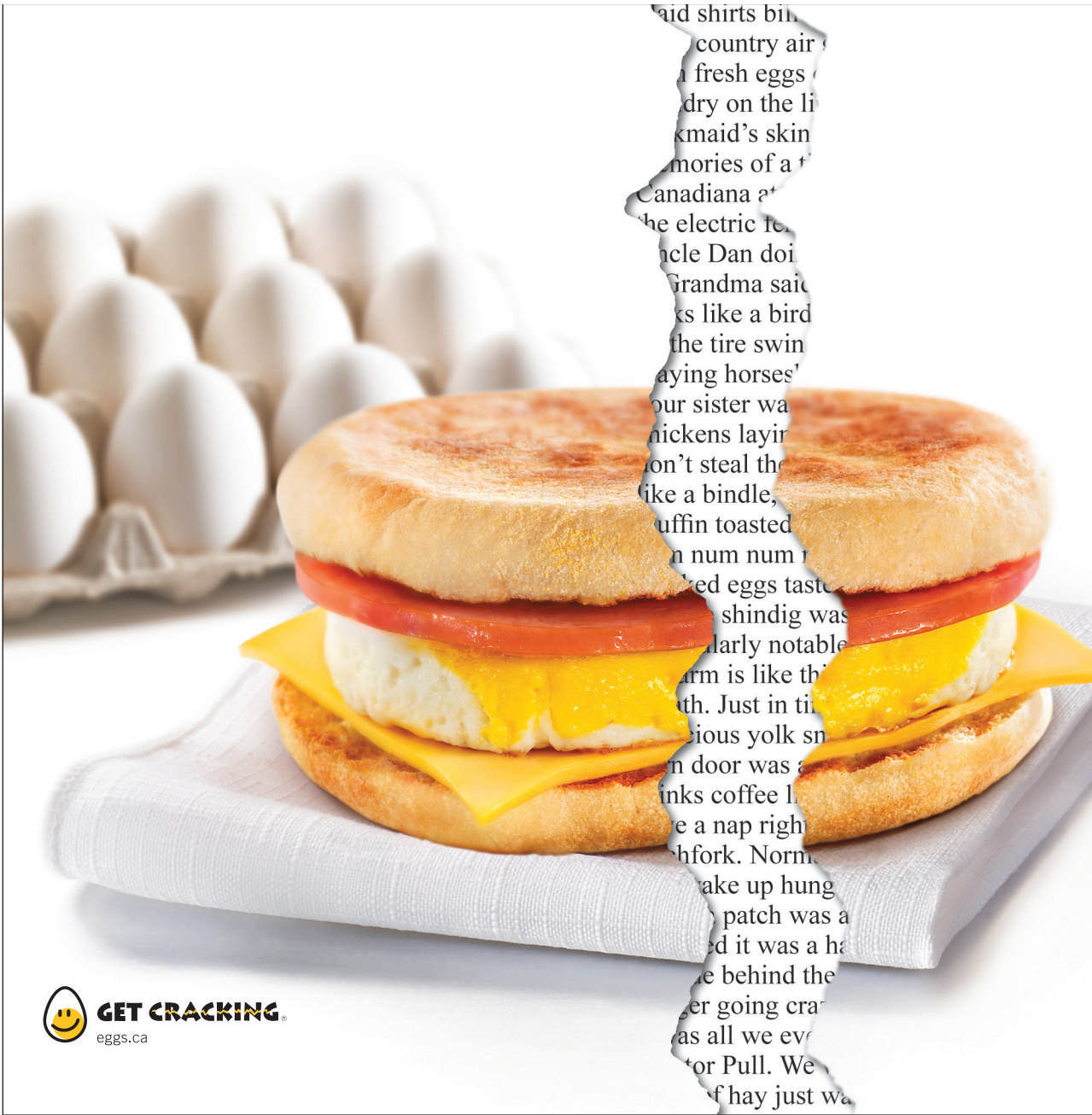
"For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, one species has become so powerful and plentiful that it is altering the physical, chemical, and biological features of the planet on a geological scale."

questions. What is an economy for? Am I happier with all this stuff? How much is enough? A timely new book by York University environmental economist Peter Victor, *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster*, addresses the absurdity of an economic system based on endless growth. Victor also shows that the concept of growth as an indispensable feature of economics is a recent

phenomenon. The economy is not a force of nature, some kind of immutable, infallible entity. We created it, and when cracks appear, it makes no sense to simply shovel on more money to keep it going. Because it's a human invention, an economy is something we should be able to fix — but if we can't, we should toss it out and replace it with something better. This current economic

crisis provides an opportunity to re-examine our priorities. For decades, scientists and environmentalists have been alarmed at global environmental degradation. For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, one species has become so powerful and plentiful that it is altering the physical, chemical, and biological features of the planet on a geological scale. And so we have to ask, "What is the collective impact of everyone in the world?" We've never had to do that before, and it's difficult. Even when we do contemplate our global effects, we have no mechanism to respond as one species to the crises.

So all the things an intact ecosystem does to keep the planet vibrant and healthy for animals like us are simply ignored in our economy. No wonder futurist Hazel Henderson describes conventional economics as "a form of brain damage." Nature's services keep the planet habitable for animals like us and must become an integral component of a new economic structure. We must get off this suicidal focus on endless, mindless growth. Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.david-suzuki.org. Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.



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Preheating your oven is often unnecessary for any food requiring more than a full hour of cooking time, says the Chicago Solar Partnership. And thaw meat before you cook it. Roasting time will be shortened, energy will be saved and the meat will be more uniformly cooked. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Be a green-savvy consumer

Find products that are safe for your family, the environment

Cars, wine, weddings — these days, everything is going green. Grocery stores are no exception, with nearly every product boasting a green claim.

Though the increase in environmentally-friendly products makes it easier for Canadians to make smart choices, it also makes it difficult for consumers to determine which products are truly eco-friendly.

To find products that are safe for your family and the environment, look for these features on the label:

Biodegradable

Biodegradable materials quickly and safely decompose into products that won't harm the soil,

Green holiday shopping tips

- Research and shop online with the help of sites like Red-FlagDeals.com to ensure that you end up with quality products and don't have to drive to many stores.
- Don't fear shopping at thrift stores. A thoughtful gift will mean more than an expensive gift.

- Stuck on sweaters or socks as gift ideas? Give an assortment of CFL light bulbs, or replace someone's old Christmas lights with energy-saving LED lights.
- Reuse gift bags. Don't throw them out when they still look perfectly new.

NEWS CANADA

helping to minimize the impact on the environment. When shopping for products such as soap, shampoo and household cleaners, look for bottles made from biodegradable plastic. Green Works, a new line of natural household cleaners from Clorox, is 99 per cent natural and is made with

biodegradable cleaning agents. More information on Green Works is available online at www.greenworkscleaners.com.

Sustainable

Reduce your carbon footprint by purchasing products made with sustainable ingredients. Sustainable products are

made from renewable resources that grow back quickly and can be cultivated with minimal harm to the environment. These products are created using little energy and can often be recycled after use.

Recycled Material

Do your part to help the environment by recycling products made from glass, plastic and aluminum. At the grocery store, choose products packaged in recycled material. Products with a post-consumer content of 30 per cent recycled material or higher are ideal.

No animal testing

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NEWS CANADA

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going green **19**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

New DVDs explore Antarctica

The Antarctic has long captivated humankind. The ancient Greeks speculated on its existence; the great explorers came tantalizingly close to landing on its shores; and hunters and merchants later exploited its riches. Now, two new films look at Antarctica through 21st-century eyes, placing the world's last untrammelled continent in the context of environmental concerns and the harsh personal challenges of life in what has long been called "the Unknown Southern Land." The first, Jean Lemire's feature-length documentary, *The Last Continent*, records the impact of global warming on the unspoiled Antarctic. But the film, produced in collaboration with several Canadian partners, is much more than a research mission. Lemire, a biologist who became an award-winning documentary filmmaker, assembled a team of 12 scientists, film crew and support staff who were willing to undertake a 430-day expedition to the Antarctic on his sailing ship, *Sedna IV*. It was an adventure that would test the team's personal limits and self-perceptions as much as it would provide data about the world's most delicate habitat. "There were, for everyone on board, two journeys," Lemire says. "The first, to the planet's final frontier, and a second, inner journey to the final frontier of the self ... in complete isolation, with no possibility of rescue, no way to go home, running away is not an option. The hard look you take at yourself, while confined in your solitude, becomes utterly inescapable."

Similar themes infuse Werner Herzog's documentary, *Encounters At The End Of The World*, produced in association with Discovery Films and Discovery Channel. *Encounters* chronicles the harsh but rewarding experiences of

scientists, researchers and support workers who spend the austral summer from October to February at remote McMurdo Station on the shore of Antarctica's vast Ross Sea. McMurdo is a remote society

where human nature blends and sometimes clashes with the natural world. Herzog, who has produced, written and directed more than 40 films since the early 1960s, also found his perceptions altered. Even though he was realistic enough not to expect

"pristine landscapes and men living in blissful harmony with fluffy penguins," he was still shocked to discover the physical reality of McMurdo Station — industrial ugliness interspersed with noisy construction sites.

For both filmmakers, though, it is the willingness of people to take chances and make sacrifices to live on the edge of the world that shines as much as the Antarctic summer sun. As Herzog says, Antarctica "is filled with professional dreamers and wonderful stories."

—CHARLES DAVIES



Encounters At The End Of The World writer/director/narrator Werner Herzog, left, and the film's director of photography, Peter Zeitlinger.

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Soccer in Manitoba

Earlier this month, the University of Manitoba opened a new multi-field soccer complex. The larger playing field in the facility can be subdivided into smaller fields to accommodate different ages and abilities.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Tree rings are great storytellers

OddJobs

Diane Peters



On a recent workday, Colin Laroque went down to the old mines near the Joggins Fossil Cliffs on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia to check out some pieces of wood with a historian visiting from England. He took some doweling-

shaped samples of the wood using a hand auger, put them under a microscope and counted the rings down to a thousandth of a millimetre.

"Trees have many ways of telling us about the past," he says. As a dendrochronologist — a job title that simply breaks down to the words "tree" and "time" — Laroque, 43, knows how to tap into this information.

He'll take the pattern of those tree rings and compare it to other samples he and his students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., have taken in the area. When

The Lowdown

Job title: Dendrochronologist

Salary: \$45,000 to \$100,000

Education/training: Graduate degree in geography under a dendrochronologist

Best Part of the Job: "I enjoy being outside. I'm out hunting down trees and camping and I get to see a lot of the country."

Worst Part of the Job: "Being in remote Labrador and wearing two bug jackets and trying to keep the bugs out while you're eating a sandwich."

he synchs up the patterns, he'll know the year the tree was cut down to make the wood for the mine or dock. And that, in turn, will tell him whether it was made by the Acadians before 1739, or the British who came later and took over the mines.

Such detective work is common for Laroque, who is an associate professor and director of the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory. He and his team of undergraduate and graduate students also help people date the wood in their homes to see if it was built by the Acadians — making it a lot more valuable.

Dendrochronologists do research too — some of it very creative. One of Laroque's students analyzing the heavy metals have gotten into trees from the Sydney Tar Ponds over the years, while another is calculating how global warming will affect trees



As a dendrochronologist, Colin Laroque knows that in the Maritimes, most of the old growth forests have been clear-cut, and discovering a tree more than 200 years old is a huge find.

in the future.

A kid who loved the outdoors, Laroque grew up north of Saskatoon. He was studying physical geography at the University of Saskatchewan when a professor took him and a class out to look at a glacier. Laroque was not only fascinated by how important water was to his

prairie homeland, but by the fact that the trees were the best way to track how the glacier had changed over the years.

He moved to Vancouver Island to do his master's and PhD at the University of Victoria, studying geography and dendrochronology, and then ended up at Mount Allison.

There are only about 20 dendrochronologists in Canada, and most of them work in the old virgin forests of British Columbia or Ontario, where there are trees as old as 900 years.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Oshawa councillor claims he owns UOIT name

Oshawa city councillor Robert Lutczyk claims he owns the literary copyright to the phrase "University of Ontario Institute of Technology," and has the right to decide who can use the phrase. Lutczyk wrote to Oshawa This Week forbidding the paper to publish the university's title. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

workology **21**

Educational renaissance in a poor economy

Post Secondary

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada



In an economy where the R-word is being tossed around and layoffs are looming left and right and centre, many would interpret market activity as nothing short of a significant financial crisis. But in an uncertain financial system where jobs are at a premium and cash is tight, Julia E. Hanigsberg sees opportunity.

"You should never overlook a crisis as an opportunity to retool and to change and you just take advantage of it," says Hanigsberg, interim dean at Ryerson University's The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education. "There's a way to take these sort of crisis moments and turn them into an opportunity to change your life."

For Canadians who lose their jobs as a result of corporate cutbacks, changing their life might not be an obvious top priority. But Hanigsberg says no hours at work equals newfound time to go back to the books.

"People will see that upgrading their education will make it easier for them to find a new job, even in a tough economy. Or, once they're brought back into their job, upgrading their skills will make them more likely to get back into the job market."

However, even though the unemployed may have time to brush up their competence, no job can also mean no salary to pay for schooling.

Financial aid options do exist for mature students, including institution- and government-administered bursaries and scholarships. And while Hanigsberg acknowledges cost can pose a challenge to students,

"You should never overlook a crisis as an opportunity to retool and to change and you just take advantage of it. There's a way to take these sort of crisis moments and turn them into an opportunity to change your life."

Interim Dean at Ryerson
Julia E. Hanigsberg

she maintains that the affordability of courses (she says The Chang School averages \$500 per course) and the flexibility of study available makes continuing education not only accessible, but necessary.

"In the knowledge economy, people know you need to be constantly upgrading your skills. The more skills you have, the



During Ontario's last recession, between 1990 and 1992, enrolment at The Chang School of Continued Education increased over the two academic years.

more nimble you are as an employee and the more employable you are," she says. "By upgrading your skills, for example, by taking a certificate program, you create in yourself expertise that's valued by employers."

If history is any testament, that's just what some people who find themselves without work do. Take, for example, Ontario's last recession, between 1990 and 1992. Hanigsberg says enrolment at The Chang School increased over the two academic

years by 8.2 per cent and 12.6 per cent, respectively.

"What we have found historically is that educational enrolments are counter-cyclical to the economy," she says. "If people feel vulnerable in their workplace or have been laid off, they're going to retool their skills to make themselves more marketable."

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How-to courses on blogging are popping up in continuing education programs across Canada. Simon Fraser University will offer a weekend course about blogging. The University of Toronto, Nova Scotia Community College, Centennial College, and the University of British Columbia also offer blogging courses. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Schools offering courses on blogging

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EDUCATION Canada enjoys one of the highest literacy rates in the world, and yet, according to Human Resources and Social Development Canada, at least 40 per cent of Canadian adults do not meet the minimum level required to succeed in the knowledge-based economy.

Literacy — the ability to read and write, and also to understand and use language — takes root in early childhood. Studies have

shown that children who are read to by their parents develop stronger language and listening skills, vocabulary, and creativity. In addition, toddlers aged two to three who are read to several times a day do significantly better in kindergarten than those who are only read to a few times a week or less, according to ABC Canada Literacy Foundation.

"Literacy is about brain development, education, and creativity, but it is al-

so about fun," says Brad Martin, president of the Canadian Publishers' Council (CPC). "Whether being read to by a caregiver, for a school assignment or for leisure, there is a lot of power in each and every book, not to mention important childhood memories of curling up with a parent or grandparent to read a favourite story."

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Duchovny drops suit

Actor David Duchovny has dropped a \$1-million US lawsuit against Britain's Daily Mail newspaper for alluding he had an affair, a week after the publication apologized for the story. **IMDB.COM**

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Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Kid's cameo

Guy Ritchie is giving his son with pop star Madonna a head start in showbiz. Eight-year-old Rocco will have a cameo in Ritchie's next movie, *Sherlock Holmes*. **IMDB.COM**



Singer Taylor Swift greets fans lined along the red carpet outside the American Music Awards in Los Angeles yesterday.

The stars come out to shine in L.A.

Pink, Kanye West bring high-energy, riveting performances to AMAs

Musical lovebirds Rihanna and Chris Brown captured the first two trophies yesterday at the American Music Awards.

Awards.

Rihanna won favourite female soul/R&B artist and Brown won favourite male pop/rock artist. The two

were seated together but left one another out of their thank-you speeches. The show traditionally centres on its performances, though a pair of lacklustre medleys opened the program at the Nokia Theatre. Christina Aguilera channelled Madonna and the New Kids on the Block channelled an earlier version of themselves during the evening's first two performances, in which both acts sang their latest singles and greatest hits. Pink brought a healthy dose

And the winners are...

- Alicia Keys won favourite pop/rock album for *As I Am*.
- Taylor Swift for favourite female country act
- Brad Paisley for favourite country artist
- Favourite rap/hip-hop album went to Kanye West for *Graduation*.

male artist in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories. Coldplay and the Eagles had four nominations each, while Brown and Lil Wayne had three apiece. All were also contenders for artist of the year.

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of energy to the stage during her performance of *Sober*, which was awkwardly introduced by slurring rocker Scott Weiland. Jimmy Kimmel returned for a fifth time as host of the three-hour show, broadcast live on ABC, poking fun at the celebrity-filled crowd during his opening monologue. Recapping the year in music, he cracked: "Christina Aguilera had a baby ... Mariah Carey married one."

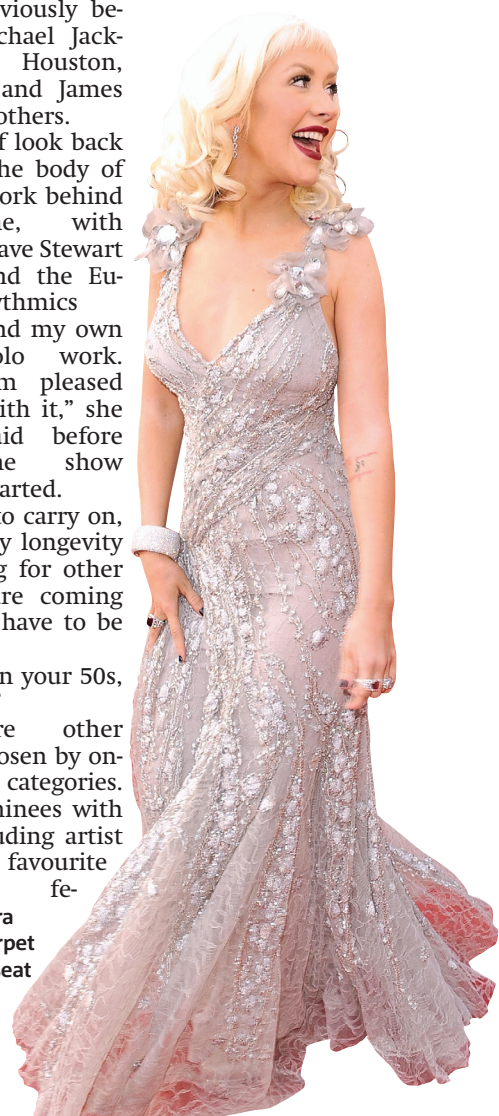
Carey was among the evening's other slated performers, along with Beyoncé, Kanye West and the Jonas Brothers. Miley Cyrus wasn't just slated to sing, she was to celebrate her "Sweet 16" on the show. Coldplay and Leona Lewis were to make their American Music Award debuts, and Alicia Keys and Sarah McLachlan performed. Annie Lennox was to receive the Award of Merit,

an honour previously bestowed on Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra and James Brown, among others. "I can kind of look back now and see the body of work behind me, with Dave Stewart and the Eurythmics and my own solo work. I'm pleased with it," she said before the show started.

"And I want to carry on, so I suppose my longevity is a good thing for other women that are coming out. You don't have to be 15 or 20."

"You can be in your 50s, man, and rock." There were other awards, too, chosen by online voters in 21 categories. Keys led nominees with five nods, including artist of the year and favourite fe-

Christina Aguilera walks the red carpet before taking a seat at the AMAs.



24entertainment

Lennon forgiven
A Vatican newspaper has forgiven singer-songwriter John Lennon for saying four decades ago that The Beatles were more popular than Jesus. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Left: The Pussycat Dolls say hello to fans on the red carpet. Below: Singer Rihanna accepts the Soul/R&B Female Artist during the American Music Awards last night.



Both Brigitte Nielsen, right, and Phoebe Price, above, arrived in attire that looked to be more tablecloth than designer dress.



Above: Former American Idol losers-turned-successes Chris Daughtry, left, and Jordan Sparks, right, caught up before the awards kicked off. Right: R&B singers Ne-yo and Leona Lewis pose on the red carpet.



Bourne again

Movie studio bosses have signed a deal to revive Matt Damon's character in The Bourne Identity movie series. **IMDB.COM**

entertainment **25**

The land Down Under

Interest in Australia sure to swell with release of new film

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada



It's a great line, maybe even a classic.

Actor Paul Hogan, starring as the title character in *Crocodile Dundee*, is confronted by a mugger. Dundee's companion tells him to hand over his wallet — the kid's got a knife.

"That's not a knife," Dundee chuckles, and pulls out a bigger Bowie knife. "That's a knife."

The mugger flees and the world laughed along, loving Hogan as the Australian crocodile hunter out of his element in New York City. The year was 1986, and *Crocodile Dundee* was a critical and box-office smash, bringing Australia right along with it. The Outback was in, with a flurry of G'days, a few Fosters — and keep that dingo away from the baby.

With the release of director Baz Luhrmann's much-anticipated film *Australia*, interest in the country is sure to swell again.

But there's already an



Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman star in *Australia*.

Aussie presence active in our culture. Luhrmann has already made his mark with the films *Moulin Rouge*, *Romeo + Juliet* and *Strictly Ballroom*. His male lead on *Australia* is a fellow countryman Hugh Jackman, best known as *Wolverine* in the *X-Men* series.

Jackman isn't the only popular leading man to come from the land Down Under. Russell Crowe, who

was born in New Zealand and moved to Australia as a child, won a best-actor Oscar for his performance in 2000's *Gladiator*.

Mel Gibson and Geoffrey Rush are other Australian Oscar winners. And there's Oscar buzz around another Aussie this year — Heath Ledger, who died in January, for his portrayal of the Joker in *The Dark Knight*. Australian women are al-

so prevalent on the big screen: Cate Blanchett and Naomi Watts are two of the best known; Winnipeg-born Anna Paquin grew up in New Zealand.

The female lead in Luhrmann's film is U.S.-born, but Australia-raised Nicole Kidman, who has had an impressive career, including an Oscar win for her performance in *The Hours* in 2003.

Plus, she makes up one half of what is probably the best-known Australian celebrity couple. Like Crowe, country rocker Keith Urban is a transplanted New Zealander. The two-time Grammy winner married Kidman in June 2006.

Kylie Minogue is another Grammy-garnering Aussie. She won for best dance recording in 2004.

Urban-Kidman may be Australia's most famous male-female couple, but there's no doubt about the top sibling couple. Guitarists Malcolm and Angus Young are the hard rock foundation of AC/DC. The legendary band's most recent CD, *Black Ice*, debuted at No. 1 in 29 countries.

Box office

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to estimates:

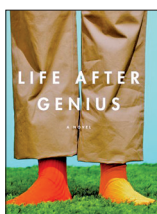
- Twilight:** \$70.5 million US
 - Quantum of Solace:** \$27.4 million
 - Bolt:** \$27 million
 - Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** \$16 million
 - Role Models:** \$7.2 million
 - Changeling:** \$2.6 million
 - High School Musical 3: Senior Year:** \$2 million
 - Zack and Miri Make a Porno:** \$1.7 million
 - The Boy in the Striped Pajamas:** \$1.67 million
 - The Secret Life of Bees:** \$1.28 million
- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tams releasing Christmas songs

MUSIC Canadian Idol winner Theo Tams is releasing two Christmas songs.

Tams recorded a cover of the song *Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)* and co-wrote the song *Christmas Dream* with three other writers. Sony Music says it will contribute 100 per cent of its net receipts of *Christmas Dream* to charity. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Finding new Life After Genius



Life After Genius

Author: M. Ann Jacoby
Publisher: Grand Central Publishing
Price: \$27.99 (Hardcover)

Up there with *Magnolia* quiz kid Donnie Smith and *Into the Wild*'s Chris (Alexander Supertramp) McCandless, you'll find Thomas Mead Fegley. In *Life After Genius*, he's the latest intellect-gone-awry whose youthful academic feats take an unpredictable turn when he's just 18. Already on the cusp of graduating university and proving an over century-old hypothesis, Fegley suddenly leaves school to return to his Illinois home. His decision to sell furniture and work as an embalmer confuses his parents, past acquaintances and everyone who knows the once-upon-a-time prodigy. But by escaping what he's always known, Fegley begins to learn who he really is.



BookPicks

Signed, Mata Hari

Author: Yannick Murphy
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company
Price: \$29.99 (Hardcover)

Who is the real Margaretha Zelle? Is she the disparaged wife of a broken marriage? World-travelling independent woman? Temple dancer Mata Hari? Or is the seeming jill-of-all-trades, as her imprisonment would suggest, a World War I spy for Germany? That's what the authorities that put her in a Paris jail believe. And it's her job to convince them otherwise, or face a gruesome demise. Yannick Murphy assembles an often erotic, rarely dull account of a woman begging for her life by authenticating her own past through narrative reflection.



Chaplin: A Life

Author: Stephen Weissman
Publisher: Arcade Publishing
Price: \$30.99 (Hardcover)

You already know Charlie Chaplin the mime, the clown and the tramp. But for the English comedian who would pave the way for modern comics, life wasn't always a laughing matter. In *Chaplin: A Life*, author Stephen Weissman traces the history of the famously mustached man, including his broken childhood when his parents' destitution forced him to take up residence at an orphanage. Weissman diverts from Chaplin the ham, delving into the early star's political persuasions and racy sexual past. Equipped with Chaplin quotes and photographs, *Chaplin: A Life* removes the cane and derby hat to deliver the facts behind the funny.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

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26 entertainment

Parole board KO's Michael Lohan's New York charity boxing match

Michael Lohan is going to have to be patient if he's still looking for a fight. The father of Lindsay Lohan took bids last month for the chance to box against him today on Long Island, N.Y., all to raise money for charity.

The president of a business computing firm put in a winning bid of \$30,000 — until parole officials stepped in. Spokeswoman Heather Groll says the board frowns on Lohan's participation in a boxing match because he spent 20 months in prison for attempted assault.

Lohan tells the Daily



Michael Lohan attends The Fight For Charity press conference on Oct. 14. Parole officials have decided he cannot participate in his bout, which was scheduled to take place today.

News he is "very disappointed" but understands the decision. The parole board says Lohan is free to

engage in whatever charity events he wants after his parole ends in February.

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Cancelled?

ABC has opted not to order additional episodes of Pushing Daisies, Eli Stone and Dirty Sexy Money for this season. The network isn't commenting, but multiple sources confirm that all three shows have effectively been cancelled. **EW.COM**

CTV's struggle to survive

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

NO ONE LOVES YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT: For as long as I've been writing this column, CTV's upfront presentation has been the big event of the local TV calendar, an expensive, high-profile media event where the network takes over a marquee Toronto venue (the Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Sony and Four Seasons performing arts centres) to bang the drum for their newly-acquired roster of shows and the continuing success of old ones.

Under CTV boss Ivan Fecan, the network's business strategy has been easy to summarize: Invest in local product prudently with halfhearted hopes that you'll get a homegrown hit, while throwing lots of money at U.S. producers to get simulcast rights for the primetime hours. It worked

well enough for main competitor Global to be obligated to do much the same thing, but like everything else that's going on in this chilly, anxious fall-into-winter season of change (with our without a capital-C) it's looking like an artifact from another time.

A front page article in the National Post's financial section this past weekend eulogized the Fecan era while the man still occupies his office, after the network's parent company, CTVglobemedia, announced a major round of cutbacks to staff and budgets last week. Fecan's "spend money to make money" philosophy "is now facing grave uncertainty," according to the Post, and Fecan delivered an address to employees nationwide on Wednesday "warning of impending layoffs and a freeze on travel and entertainment spending at CTV Inc., the country's largest private broadcaster."

Precise details of what's going on at CTV or its parent company aren't easy to divine, thanks to its status as a private company with

a small number of large shareholders that doesn't have to publish financial information. So we'll watch to see how precisely it intends to weather the current economic downturn across a variety of media, but the fate of CTV, its flagship brand, will be watched closest of all. What went wrong is easy to figure out when you read news like ABC's cancellation of three of its primetime shows, all of them once part of CTV's buying spree down south.

The Canadian network's website no longer puts Pushing Daisies, Eli Stone or Dirty Sexy Money front

and centre — but they were all trophies brought home by Fecan and Susanne Boyd, his head of creative content.

In this light, CTV has never been the author of its own success, and probably doesn't have the thick cushion of money ABC can expect from Disney, its corporate parent, though it's unlikely that neither of them will escape the humbling fate due to media companies, now being accelerated by poor shows and a poorer economy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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YANNICK BISSON WITH MAD DOG & BILLIE



Gemini nominee, Yannick Bisson of The Murdoch Mysteries, is seen here with Virgin Radio's Breakfast Show hosts, Mad Dog & Billie on location at the new "A Room To Bloom" store in Toronto. Also in attendance was Virgin Radio's Maura Grierson.



In brief

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Kenya Hunt

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Heroes

After reuniting Sylar and Elle, Arthur orders them to find Claire and bring her to him. Matt, Hiro and Ando then team up and follow Daphne to her hometown of Athens, Ga., to discover what she's been hiding. Meanwhile, Nathan and Peter head to Haiti. 9 PM on GTV, NBC



Two and a Half Men

Jake (Angus T. Jones) disappears with the daughter of Charlie's neighbor, forcing Charlie (Charlie Sheen) to cover his back in an effort to preserve the peace. Meanwhile, Alan scores a hot date, thanks in part to Charlie's Mercedes. 9 PM on ACH-B CBS

My Own Worst Enemy

Edward (Christian Slater) risks national security to find the identity of his parents' killer. Then Angie prepares for bad news when her father, Archie, visits for the holidays. Meanwhile, Tom and his wife, Mary, rekindle their strained relationship over a bourbon-fueled cooking session. 10 PM on GTV, NBC

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team "Freen's Court"	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	Midsomer Murders	In Korea with Norm Christie	Agenda-Paikin			
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break "Selfless"	Heroes (HDTV) (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	215	343	4	OMNI	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N)	The Border (HDTV) (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Celebrity Fit Club	Corner Gas (N)	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)		
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars	Worst Week	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)		
	218	345	11	ET	The Insider (N)	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)		
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Le Monde des couleurs	Les Destinées sentimentales ** (2000, Drame) Emmanuelle Béart.					
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case	News (N)	News (N)	Two/Half Men	Friends	Hist Language		
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)	To Serve and Protect	Grill Rm.			
news	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"	News (N)	
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (HDTV) (N)	Heroes (HDTV) (N)	My Own Worst Enemy	News (N)		
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars	Samantha Who	(10:02) Boston Legal	News		
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	News (N)		
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles	Prison Break "Selfless"	Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow	The Rape of Europa *** (2006, Documentary) (HDTV)	Business Rpt.			
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)	CW11 News at Ten (N)	Two/Half Men		
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)	WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Punk'd	
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Stolen Babies, Stolen Lives (N)	National		
sports	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)			
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports			Cash Flow	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money		
	405	417	22	net	Hockey 2008 ADT Canada Russia Challenge - OHL vs. Russia. From St. Catharines, Ont.			Sportsnet Connected	Hockey Central			
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football Green Bay Packers at New Orleans Saints. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	(6) The Amazing Race 5	The Academy	Mantracker	Departures	Pilot Guides			
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson	Pinks (HDTV)	
	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Life's a Zoo	
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)	Confidential	Kim	Save Us-House
family	570	580	29	MM	Punk'd	Punk'd	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	MuchNews	The NewMusic		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Intervention "Ashley"	Intervention (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48			
	700	800	35	TLN	Centovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro	Distretto Di Polizia	Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Revival	Listed	Coolio's Rules	Parental Advis.	Revival	Party of Five	
	575	583	38	CMT	All About ...	Flashback	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Gone Country	
	616	521	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives	Faerie Queen		Bravonews	Year of Lion	Perreault Dancer	Law & Order	
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Project Runway "Finale Part 1"	Til Debt-Part
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Pop Life"	Battle 360		Underworld Histories	NCIS "Pop Life"	Crime Stories		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham: Arguing	Daily Show	
cable variety	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Selena *** (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez, Edward James Olmos.				Family Guy	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Baby Boy *** (2001, Drama) Tyrese Gibson, Omar Gooding.				Keyshia Cole	Brother	Angie Martinez
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Two for the Road"	Star Trek (Part 2 of 2)	Battlestar Galactica	Eureka "I Do Over"			Stargate SG-1	
	581	566	52	MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	Super Sweet	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men	What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover	Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares	Restaurant	
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote	Prime Minister	May-December	etalk	McLeod's Daughters (N)	Tuscany	Mysterious Wy	
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	TMZ (N)		Scream Queens	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno	TMZ		
	553	546	65	TRE	The Wonder	Night Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie
cable variety	115	711	101	TVA	Les Auditions de Star Acadé	Annie et ses hommes (N) (SC)		Dr. House "Le Petit coin" (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages Haïti. (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy	Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour	Mediums	
	300	601	301	M1	Sanctuary "Edward"	Stargate Atlantis (N)		Californication	Little Britain	Brotherhood (N)	Sanctuary	
	305	612	306	PIX	Best of Best	Black Pearls * (1990, Drama)		Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983, Comedy)		Maze-Monster		

Celebrity Buzz

Barker files lawsuit

LEGAL Travis Barker has filed a lawsuit blaming the pilots and defective equipment for a plane crash that severely injured the rocker and

DJ AM and killed four other people, People.com reports.

The L.A. Superior Court lawsuit, also filed Friday by the mother of Barker's bodyguard, Charles (Che) Still, who died in the crash, alleges the pilots "negligently decided to abort" the takeoff when the Learjet's tires failed in September at an airport in Columbia, S.C.

"The pilots were either poorly trained and/or failed to follow their training," the suit says. "The pilots' decision was a breach of their duty owed to the passengers on-board and was a substantial factor in causing the crash and resultant injuries and deaths."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reese not ready for another marriage

RELATIONSHIPS Reese Witherspoon thinks it is too soon to think about marrying boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 32-year-old actress, who has two children with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, admits divorce has changed her opinions about the institution of marriage.

"Family is all we have in life, but I don't know how I feel about marriage," she said. "Obviously, I'm not far enough out of being married to think about doing it again. You sort of reconstitute

your family. You find a family with people who come into your life for a reason."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Maguire's wife is pregnant

FAMILY Another gem is on the way for Tobey Maguire and his wife, Jennifer Meyer, People.com reports.

The couple — already parents to Ruby, 2 — are expecting a second child in the spring, the actor's rep Kelly Bush confirms to People.

"I love being a dad!" the three-time Spider-Man star, 33, told People when Ruby was just six months old. He and Meyer, 31, met in 2003 and married in September 2007.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica loves new aunt role

FAMILY Jessica Simpson is ecstatic about her latest role — aunt to newborn Bronx Mowgli Wentz, People.com reports.

"I'm over the moon with joy," the singer said Friday.

Singer Ashlee Simpson Wentz and her husband Pete Wentz welcomed Bronx on Thursday night in Los Angeles.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sweetin files for separation

SPLIT Former Full House star and new mom Jodie Sweetin is splitting with her husband, People.com reports. Sweetin, 26, filed papers Wednesday in Orange County, Calif., for legal separation from Cody Herpin, 31, who helped turn around her life after years of methamphetamine addiction.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Penn helps ex Madonna

RELATIONSHIPS Madonna is doing her best to get through her split from husband Guy Ritchie, with a little help from ex-husband Sean Penn, People.com reports a source close to the singer as saying.

"It's a sad situation, but she's not heartbroken," says the source, who saw the 50-year-old icon hours before a London court granted the couple a preliminary "quickie divorce" on Friday. "She's handling it well."

Madonna is focusing on her work and her children to keep her mind off the end of her nearly eight-year marriage to Ritchie, says the source. "She's got a very busy life."

Also helping her through the tough time is her ex-hus-

band. The singer and Penn were spotted having drinks at the Greenwich Hotel in Manhattan on Wednesday night.

"They have a nice rapport," says the source. "There's nothing romantic there. They're just good friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Williams asks to grieve in peace

PEOPLE Actress Michelle Williams has slammed the paparazzi for refusing to let her grieve in peace following the death of her ex-boyfriend Heath Ledger in January, imdb.com reports.

In her first in-depth interview since the tragedy, the actress tells the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine she'll never forgive the disrespectful snappers who have made her life a misery in the past year — and she won't forget them.

Williams tells the publication she was particularly disturbed with the efforts some photographers went to just to get a photo of her young daughter Matilda.

"It burns a fire inside of me, the s— that I've seen people do to get at me or my daughter," she says. "I won't forget it, and I won't support it. I don't want my daughter growing up feeling spied on or threatened."

And it was one encounter with an overzealous female paparazzo, which tipped Williams over the edge.

"I said, 'You're better than this. Look at you! You're young, you're able-bodied, you have a brightness in your eyes. You're above this.' But you know what? She didn't go away," Williams adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Beyonce/Jay-Z high earners

PEOPLE Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z have been named Hollywood's highest-earning couple, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The married pair topped the list compiled by Forbes magazine after collectively making \$162 million US between June 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008.

Hip-hop star Jay-Z pocketed \$82 million from a 10-year deal with Live Nation, while Beyonce raked in \$80 million from film, fashion and publishing deals.

Actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith finished second place in the list, with earnings of \$85 million.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ivanka signs on for book deal

CAREER Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump is on the fast-track to building her own business empire, after signing a deal to publish a new book, imdb.com reports.

The 26-year-old former model, who holds an executive office at the Trump Organization, has signed on with publishers at Simon & Schuster to write a motivational book, reports the New York Post.

"My father always impressed upon me the idea that America is a meritocracy and that you must work for everything you get," she says.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

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